

**CLAIMS:**

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1. A method for lowering a risk factor in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from said risk factor and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said risk factor is selected from blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood tryglicerides and VLDL concentration.
  2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from  
10 blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, serum LDL susceptibility to aggregation and serum LDL susceptibility to retention.
  3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is selected from blood pressure and glucose concentration.
  4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is selected from  
15 LDL susceptibility to aggregation and LDL susceptibility to retention.
  5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said risk factor is blood glucose concentration.
  6. A method for treating inflammation in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from inflammation and administering to said patient an effective  
20 amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid.
  7. A method for simultaneously lowering at least two risk factors in a patient, by identifying that said patient suffers from said at least two risk factors and administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising  
25 licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein each of said at least two risk factors is selected from blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood tryglicerides and VLDL concentration.

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